

NOTES

Each year, Americans consume approximately two billion cookies. In the following collection of poems, Jake Barton takes us inside "The Cookie Jar" and reintroduces us to some old friends. These poems may be performed by a male or female and may be entered in Poetry Interpretation; however, a performer may choose to enter this selection in Humorous Interpretation. The key to the overall success of these poems lies in the performer's ability to portray each cookie as a distinct character. All of these poems are character-driven; therefore, the performer must make strong choices when determining how to play the characterization of each cookie. For example, The Chocolate Chip Cookie boasts about his accomplishments, so portray The Chocolate Chip Cookie using an arrogant, snobby voice! Look for clues within each poem! In "The Sugar Cookie," we learn that this sweet cookie is from the South; therefore, you might choose to perform the character of this poem as a Southern Belle. The Oatmeal Raisin cookie is obviously jealous of The Chocolate Chip Cookie. Could The Oatmeal Raisin Cookie be portrayed as a jaded New Yorker (with possibly an old-time, hard-nosed Detective thrown in for good measure)? The possibilities are endless; however, "The Crumbs" would most likely be best portrayed as a Cookie with "age." After all, the Crumbs must be older than the original Cookies themselves. Appropriate gestures, vocal variety, and at times—even physical posture and/or stances—will all only add to the overall professionalism of the finished performance. Remember, the audience must believe that each of these Cookies is alive—with a story to tell—so tell their stories well! The drama mask icons only serve as suggestions as to when to turn the pages of the manuscript.

The Chocolate Chip Cookie

Yes, it's me. What? You'd like an autograph?

Of course, I'll sign your cookie jar!

I am, after all, THE Chocolate Chip Cookie.

I'm not one to brag—but—

I am the Official State Cookie of both Massachusetts and Pennsylvania!

Half of all cookies baked at home are Chocolate Chip!

And year after year, more Chocolate Chip Cookies

Are sold in America than any other type of cookie!

I'm so popular! What can I say?

I come from a long line of champions!

We've been the most popular kind of cookie
 Ever since Ruth Wakefield invented us
 At the Toll House Inn during the 1930's!
 And we've been the most popular cookie ever since!
 What can I say? I've kept the family name strong!
 I'm a *Chip*—off the old block!



The Oatmeal Raisin Cookie

The worst thing about being an Oatmeal Raisin Cookie—
 The *worst* thing—is the haters!
 You know the ones I'm talking about.
 I'm talking about those people who HATE raisins.
 I'm talking about those people who HATE oatmeal.
 And I'm talking about the WORST kinds of people—
 Those people who hate both raisins AND oatmeal!

People are funny.
 People think that Oatmeal Raisin Cookies are yucky!
 People think that Oatmeal Raisin Cookies are gross!
 Well, I've got news for them!
 An Oatmeal Raisin Cookie is actually GOOD for you!
 That's right! We are made with FRUIT!
 A Chocolate Chip Cookie doesn't have FRUIT, now does he?
 No! He doesn't! We're the only one!
 And yes, I've heard about this NEWTON character.
 But word on the street—is the guy's a FIG, if you know what I mean.
 Oh, and *another* thing a Chocolate Chip Cookie can't give you—is FIBER!
 If you eat enough of me, I can help REGULATE you!
 I can relieve your pesky CONSTIPATION!
 Let's see Mr. Chocolate Chip Cookie do that!

As an Oatmeal Raisin Cookie, I'm chewy and delicious.
 Of course, I realize there will be people who will assume—
 That since I'm a bit *grumpy*—that I'm nothing but a sour GRAPE!
 But there's a big difference between a sour *grape* and a shriveled up RAISIN!
 I know. Believe me. I KNOW!
 I am PART raisin! You're not looking at some "Cookie-Cutter" cookie here!
 My mother was a Sunbelt. My father was a Quaker.
 God rest their souls!
 I heard it through the grapevine—that neither survived—
 Last week's Bar Mitzvah!
 And I apologize for something I said earlier.